



A UNIQUE ASSET FOR THE NATION

The Environmental Finance Center Network is the only university-based organization that creates innovative solutions to help manage the cost of environmental protection. Addressing difficult "how-to-pay" issues, the Network works with both the public and private sectors to promote a sustainable environment.

Core support for the Network is provided by EPA's Environmental Finance Program in the Office of the Comptroller, OCFO¹. The Network is comprised of nine Environmental Finance Centers, each affiliated with an EPA Region and located at the following universities.

- University of New Mexico
- University of Maryland
- Syracuse University
- California State University at Hayward
- Cleveland State University
- Boise State University
- University of Southern Maine
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- University of Louisville

THE VALUE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER NETWORK

The Network Is

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| Innovative | The Network shares and integrates information, tools and techniques across the country to develop innovative solutions to difficult problems. |
| Neutral | The Network is housed within nine Universities and is not governed by any one public or private agency or organization and so is neutral by its very nature. |

Multi-Disciplinary

The Network routinely employs staff from multiple disciplines including engineering, business, finance, planning, economic development, science, public administration, and law. For any project, the Network can access the expertise housed within the nine universities.

Local, Regional & National

The Network has a proven track record of working at all project levels from local to national.

The Network Offers

Financial Expertise

In solving environmental problems or addressing environmental issues, the Network brings a unique financial perspective.

Technical Transfer

The Network has worked in over 46 states and shares information and technical expertise among the states and within the Network to allow a national transfer of information.

Multi-Media Capabilities

The Network addresses a full range of environmental issues, including: hazardous waste, air, water, wastewater, solid waste, brownfields, environmental technologies and pollution prevention.

Partnerships w/ the Regulated & Regulators

The Network works with both the regulated community and regulators to promote efficient and effective environmental compliance.

National Presence

The Network routinely partners with other public and private entities to complete projects throughout the US and beyond.

ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER NETWORK TOOLS

The Network provides education, technical assistance and analyses to state and local governments and the private sector through various tools, including the following.

- **Finance Planning Strategies and Programs**
- **Local & Regional Economic Development**
- **Stakeholder Meetings**
- **Role-plays and Simulations**
- **Economic and Fiscal Impact Analysis**

¹ Office of the Chief Financial Officer

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- **Utility Accounting and Financial Reporting**
- **Informal Surveys**
- **Finance & Policy and Practice Guides**
- **Information Clearinghouse**
- **Strategic Information Systems**
- **Conferences & Workshops**
- **Charrettes**
- **Process Facilitation**
- **Program Evaluation**
- **Research Publications and Reports, and**
- **Hand-On Assistance**

We have adopted these tools to help us navigate the numerous environmental media in which we work. Some tools apply across a broad spectrum of issues while others are limited to specific media.

Finance Planning Strategies and Programs include the provision of financial expertise in areas such as capital financing, operating cost management, loan programs, environmental risk management and strategies and approaches for the public and private sectors.

Local Economic Development support involves numerous areas including eco-industrial parks, recycling, open space preservation, brownfields, greenfields, and green business and environmental industry support and promotion.

Stakeholder Meetings and Charrettes are implemented in various situations where input from a variety of stakeholders and participants is necessary to resolve an environmental finance problem.

Role-plays and Simulations have been used in brownfields assistance where stakeholders learn what motivates and interests the other stakeholders with whom they need to negotiate, based on real circumstances.

Economic and Fiscal Impact Analyses are frequently performed for various projects including brownfields reclamation, rural land conversions and other forms of development.

Utility Finance models and financial management programs and software have been developed for water and wastewater infrastructure projects. These include: utility accounting and financial reporting, water conservation cost-benefit analysis, gap financing analysis, and water and wastewater system budgeting.

Informal Surveys are frequently used for a range of projects from determining small business incentives for green manufacturing, to assessing local needs for redevelopment.

Policy and Practice Guides have been developed to assist in shaping local policy and helping consumers choose and locate green businesses.

Information Clearinghouse is a role that all Centers play. The Network serves as a national repository and clearinghouse for environmental finance-related information, including information from the USEPA, the national Environmental Financial Advisory Board, and the national Environmental Financing Information Network.

Strategic Information Systems have been designed to improve financial and management capabilities of water systems.

Conferences & Workshops are offered by the Network throughout the United States on a range of topics from water and wastewater, to brownfields redevelopment and environmental technology transfer.

Process Facilitation is a broad tool designed to help take a project from concept to reality. Part of that facilitation may include Internal Partnering Meetings that promote inter-agency cooperation.

Program Evaluation assesses the outcomes of new environmental finance programs for local and state governments.

Finally the Network offers a wide range of **Research Publications and Reports, and Hands-On Assistance** to national, state, and local agencies as well as tribes and private sector organizations and businesses.

SELECTED PROJECTS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

Since 1992, the Network has been working to promote sustainable development throughout the United States. The following is a selection of projects that best represents our talents.

Brownfields Remediation and Redevelopment Network members have been involved in developing, operating and evaluating the impacts of state and local brownfield redevelopment efforts. Key features of state voluntary cleanup programs have been identified and their impacts on developer decision making examined. The private market risk transfer measures available through insurance and their impact on brownfield project valuations have been documented and technical assistance to public sector utilization of insurance continues to be provided. Network members have also been involved in training programs for potential brownfield redevelopers and financiers on how the markets and regulatory standards have been evolving.

Full Cost Pricing of Water and Sewer Services Small communities struggle with the challenge of providing safe drinking water and effective wastewater treatment services to the public. As a result, the Network provides public health and environmental protection services at the lowest cost possible. Communities throughout the country have benefited from low or no-cost assistance in the areas of rate setting,

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capital replacement financing, financial management and assessing the impact of capital investments.

Multi-State Grants and Loans Database A database is being compiled of grants and low cost loans for environmental projects in North Carolina as well as five other southeastern states: South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi. This database will be made available to local governments and citizens to help them identify low cost financing approaches for environmental projects. The database will also be an extension of the Network and EPA's Guidebook of Financial Tools. Similar internet-based tools for watershed financing will be available in 2003 in the Region 10 states of Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

Environmental Finance Curriculum Development A set of course materials on environmental finance, intended to bridge the gap between existing academic courses on public finance and existing training programs for government officials has been developed. The course is available for delivery throughout the Network and will be presented as a series of modules that can work together for an extended course of study, or separately for focus on individual topics. A distance education course on environmental finance based on some of the materials and topics covered in the course material is under preparation.

Business Planning Assistance to Environmental Non-profit Organizations A business plan has been prepared to help guide non-profit environmental organizations. The plan includes an analysis of existing services and pricing structures and makes recommendations on how an organization can implement improved business practices and become financially stable while achieving environmental and community service objectives.

Environmental Finance Policy Guides Guides are being developed throughout the Network to be used by state local government officials and their associations, Rural Community Assistance Program staffs and others. Topics, readable by people with high school educations, include the issues of land value 'takings' by regulation, resources valuation issues in water and wastewater system mergers/acquisitions, choosing among alternative brownfield subsidies, and the economic and environmental features of different policy responses to urban expansion pressures.

Unified Source Water Protection Working under an EPA initiative, unified source water protection plans are being developed to incorporate the needs of many water systems that share a water source or potential contamination threats. The single or unified plan approach: reduces duplication of effort, allows for a more expansive look at water resources, allows for greater community involvement, and permits side benefits by bringing water system managers and operators together on an ongoing frequent basis. Five EFCs are working in 8 different states to demonstrate this approach to source water

protection. EFC 10 is working in Oregon and Idaho on this joint EFC project.

Funding Analysis The Network frequently assesses performance of individual funding programs available for environmental improvements or infrastructure development. In addition, focus groups and informant interviews of program representatives and program beneficiaries or recipients have been conducted, and strategies recommended for cooperative funding to maximize opportunities for beneficiaries to obtain financing in the most cost-effective and politically palatable manner.

Brominated Flame Retardants in Electronics. In response to growing national interest, a Finance Center program, including a roundtable and conference, has been planned to facilitate dialogue between electronics manufacturers, plastics experts, and community and government stakeholders to explore alternatives to toxic flame retardant use in consumer electronics. The program is focused on designing electronics that are both fire resistant and protect human health and the environment while ensuring product performance.

Environmental Insurance for Brownfields Research has been conducted on available insurance products and their utility for brownfield projects. In addition, technical assistance has been provided to state and municipal brownfield programs and instruction has been offered for continuing legal education seminars and other forms of training for brownfields stakeholders. Current efforts include designing model insurance programs for municipal- and state-led redevelopment programs.

Financing Watershed Strategies Training workshops have been developed which promote the coordination of funding and technical assistance programs with innovative financing techniques to support watershed management. Participants explore innovative solutions to multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary issues encountered within a watershed. Network trainings have been held in EPA Regions 5, 8, and 10. Due to the popularity of the workshops, 20 workshops will be held in EPA Region 10 in 2002-2003.

Green Business Program Facilitation. As part of the effort to promote Green Business throughout the United States, an EFC program has been established to help facilitate the creation of Green Business Programs and Recognition Projects. In addition to hands-on assistance, a website is being developed to compile information on planning, implementing, maintaining and growing a Green Business Recognition Program.

Public Management and Finance Program A unique technical assistance and training program has been developed in which EFCs collaborate with nonprofit, private, and government entities in the delivery of environmental services to primarily rural communities. The PMFP provides a forum

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that links technical assistance providers and local governments to enable holistic approaches to rural community problems.

Smart Growth Planning Network Smart Growth projects include efforts to help an agricultural community preserve its rural heritage. Land protection financing initiatives have been explored through charrettes and comprehensive planning. Geographic Information System tools are being used to identify causes of urban spread and economically efficient public responses.

EnviroLoan & Strategic Goals Program Projects for the National Strategic Goals Program included developing the Access to Capital EnviroLoan Program – a pollution prevention (P2) loan program for metal finishers. Other work focused on marketing the Goals Program statewide seeking legislation to implement a California Strategic Goals Program.

Million Acres Initiative - Open Space Preservation In a state effort that may be replicable, support is being provided to the North Carolina legislature's Million Acres Initiative to conserve land for open space, farmland preservation, riparian buffers and other conservation purposes. Surveys and interviews were used to assess the amount of land already protected, the rate at which land would be protected over the next ten years at current funding levels, the size of the revenue gap needed to complete the million acre goal, and the funding alternatives potentially available.

Sustainable Infrastructure Development This project will define a vision for a Great Lakes regional approach to prioritizing capital investments which sustain the regional system of infrastructure.

Multi-State Assistance to State Regulatory Departments State Regulatory Departments were assisted in preparing and implementing Capacity Development strategies in ten different states. These strategies are intended to improve water system technical, managerial, and financial capabilities. The assistance ranged from facilitating the stakeholder-input process, to writing up strategies, to assisting with partnering between systems and various options in between.

Intergovernmental and Inter-Agency Cooperation The first ever meeting on public funding or watershed restoration efforts was convened in the state of Idaho. This meeting included representatives of EPA, USFS, BLM, Bureau of Reclamation, USACE, USF&W, Bonneville Power Administration, NRCS, ID Dept of Ag, ID Dept of Fish and Game, ID Dept of Water Resources, ID Dept of Environmental Quality and other private foundations. The purpose of the meeting was to initiate a dialogue on the various funding sources and the match requirements associated with the various programs.

Land Trust Assistance The first Patuxent Land Trust Exchange was conducted in partnership with the Maryland Environmental Trust and the Trust for Public Land. The goal of the Exchange was to develop a more coordinated land protection strategy in the Patuxent River watershed. Ten

community conservation organizations attended the Exchange. A number of next steps were identified including developing joint marketing strategies, list serves, and special events. In addition, possibilities for organizational funding and capacity development will be explored.

Financing A Cluster Wastewater System As part of a multi-region effort, a charrette was held in Yarmouth MA, to help locate financing for a "cluster" wastewater treatment system to replace septic systems that had been nitrogen-loading the local estuary and its ecosystem. This charrette helped develop a solution that may also be generalized to fit other similarly dense seasonal communities on Cape Cod and other tourist meccas. Additionally, several resource assessment needs were identified and are currently being addressed by the State of Massachusetts, and several groups have expressed interest in collaborating to create the new community wastewater system, using State revolving loan funds and other public and private funds.

WHERE HAS THE ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER NETWORK WORKED?

Haven't heard of us? If you haven't already, you probably will soon because the Network is continually expanding its range of services and the states it serves. The following is a list of states that have benefited from our services thus far.

Alabama	Alaska	Arizona	California
Colorado	Connecticut	Delaware	Florida
Georgia	Hawaii	Idaho	Illinois
Indiana	Iowa	Kansas	Kentucky
Louisiana	Maine	Maryland	Massachusetts
Michigan	Minnesota	Mississippi	Missouri
Montana	Nebraska	Nevada	New Hampshire
New Jersey	New Mexico	New York	North Carolina
Ohio	Oklahoma	Oregon	Pennsylvania
Rhode Island	South Carolina	Tennessee	Texas
Utah	Vermont	Virginia	Washington
West Virginia	Wisconsin		

CONTACT US

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Visit the EPA National Environmental Finance Program Webpage,

<http://www.epa.gov/efinpage/>

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